

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action (Purchasing)

Austin City Council	Item ID:	17424	Agenda Number	32.
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Meeting Date:	August 16, 2012
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Department:	Purchasing
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Subject

Authorize award and execution of a contract with SOLAR COMMUNITY, or one of the other qualified offerors to RFP No. TVN0023, for the installation of a solar photovoltaic system at the Palmer Events Center in an estimated amount not to exceed \$500,114.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Capital Budget of Austin Energy.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:	Best evaluated proposal received.
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Prior Council Action:	
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For More Information:	Terry Nicholson, Sr. Buyer/512-322-6586
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Boards and Commission Action:	Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission.
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Related Items:	
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MBE / WBE:	This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9C of the City Code (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). No subcontracting opportunities were identified; therefore, no goals were established for this solicitation.
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Additional Backup Information

This contract will provide for the turnkey installation of a solar photovoltaic (PV) system at the City of Austin's Palmer Events Center. The installation will include all equipment, labor, design, permits, warranty, installation and all other required resources for site. The project also requires the installation of a monitoring system in the lobby of the Palmer Events Center for public view. The monitoring system will display energy production at 15-minute intervals to monitor performance.

The Palmer Events Center serves as an excellent site for this project as it provides high visibility to those visiting the Center. The electricity generated will offset the operating costs of the Austin Convention Center Department, which is responsible for the management of the facility. Austin Energy (AE) estimates the 241.5 kilowatt (kW) system will reduce electricity costs at the facility by approximately 313,950 kilowatt hours (kWh) per year, which equates to an annual savings of approximately \$31,830.00. This savings represents approximately 12% of the Palmer Events Center's energy consumption.

The system will produce enough electricity for 32 average Austin homes for a year and produce an estimated 314 Renewable Energy Credits per year. These savings are equivalent to the planting of 6,850 trees or 342 acres of forest in Austin's parks or the removal of 350,753 vehicle miles or 44 cars from Austin roadways. The project will save 181.63 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), 76 pounds of Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂), 386 pounds of Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x), and 503 pounds of Carbon Monoxide (CO) from being emitted into the atmosphere.

AE's solar program objectives include the expansion of the number of municipal facilities that have solar PV installations and the continuation of educating community stakeholders about the benefits of clean energy, using the solar installations as a tool for learning. This project will carry out part of AE's 2003 Strategic Plan in promoting energy conservation through the use of alternative energy sources and generating Renewable Energy Credits. The program plan calls for AE to implement a highly visible public awareness and education program involving the installation of PV projects on City facilities such as libraries and community centers.

An AE evaluation team with expertise in this area evaluated the proposals and unanimously chose this proposal as the best to provide these services. Evaluation criteria used to evaluate the proposals included total kW produced based on budget amount, system concept and design, and local business presence.

This request allows for the development of an agreement with a qualified offeror that Council selects. If the City is unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the selected offeror, negotiations will cease with that provider. Staff will return to Council so that Council may select another qualified offeror and authorize contract negotiations with this provider.

MBE / WBE Solicited: 5/1

MBE / WBE Bid: 1/0

PRICE ANALYSIS

- a. Adequate competition.
- b. One hundred twenty-one notices were sent including five MBEs and one WBE. Nine proposals were received including one MBE. There was no response from the WBE.

APPROVAL JUSTIFICATION

- a. Best evaluated proposal received.
- b. The Purchasing office concurs with Austin Energy's recommended award.

c. Advertised on the Internet.